

REMARKS

Claims 1-48 are pending in the application. Claims 23-48 are withdrawn without prejudice.

The Office Action requires restriction to one of the following:

I. Claims 1-44, drawn to a method for conducting commercial transactions in a network having an e-service layer;

II. Claims 45 and 46, drawn to a method of conducting a business transaction between two persons enabling a first person to enquire whether a second person is capable of providing an object derived by the first person; and

III. Claims 47 and 48, drawn to an information technology network made up of a group of computing entities having a service layer.

Applicants elect **group I.**, and corresponding claims 1-44.

The Office Action also requires an election of one of the following species:

Species 1, corresponding to claims 1-22; and

Species 2, corresponding to claims 23-44.

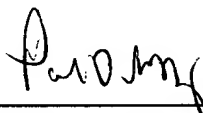
Applicants elect **Species 1** for prosecution on the merits, and corresponding claims 1-22. If a generic claim is found to be allowable, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner rejoin the elected and non-elected species in the allowed claims.

Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and passage of this application to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

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